

ferred at a smaller price, to immediately notify the publisher of such books, or book, of their decision and request such reduction in price as they deem reasonable or just, and if they and such publishers shall agree on a price they may adopt this book, or books, but if not, they shall use their own sound judgment and discretion whether they will adopt that or the book, or books, deemed by them the next best in the list submitted. And when said Text-Book Commission shall have finished with the report of said sub-commission, the said report shall be filed and preserved in the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and shall be open at all times for public inspection.

SEC. 7. That said Text-Book Commission shall, immediately after the passage of this act, meet and organize, the Governor being *ex officio* President of the Commission, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction its Secretary. As soon as practicable, not later than thirty days after its organization, the Commission shall advertise in such manner, and for such a length of time, and at such places as may be deemed advisable, that at a time and place fixed definitely in said advertisement sealed bids, or proposals, will be received from the publishers of school text-books for furnishing books to the public schools in the State of North Carolina, through agencies established by said publishers in several counties, and places in counties in the State, as may be provided for in such regulations as said Commission may adopt and prescribe. The bids, or proposals, to be for furnishing the books for a period of five years, and no longer, and that no bid for a longer period will be considered. Said bid, or bids, shall state specifically and definitely the price at which book, or books, are to be furnished, and shall be accompanied by ten or more specimen copies of each and every book proposed to be furnished, and it shall be required of each bidder to deposit with the Treasurer of the State a sum of money, such as the Commission may require, not less than \$500, or more than \$2,500, according to the number of books each bidder may propose to supply, and notice shall further be given in said advertisement that such deposits shall be forfeited absolutely to the State if the bidder making the deposit of any sum shall fail or refuse to make and execute such contract and bond, as is hereinafter required, within such time as the Commission shall require, which time shall also be stated in said advertisement. All bids shall be sealed and deposited with the Secretary of State, to be by him delivered to the Commission when they are in executive session, for the purpose of considering the same, when they shall be opened in the presence of the Commission.

SEC. 8. That it shall be the duty of the said Text-Book Commission to meet at the time and place designated in such notice, or advertisement, and take out the sample, or specimen, copies submitted, upon